

BLONDIE



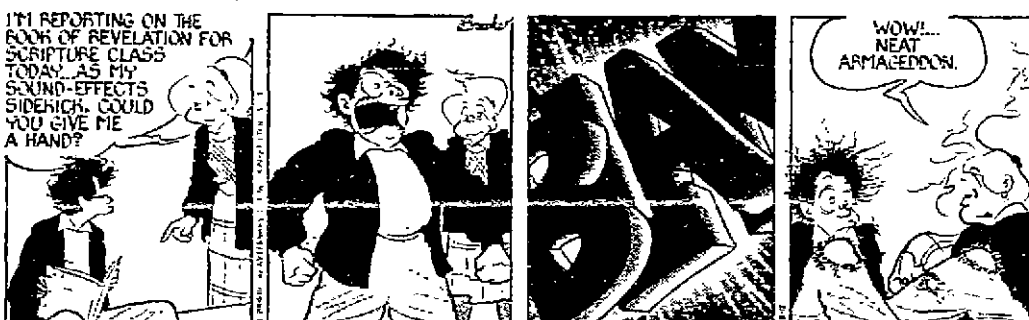
SALLY FORTH



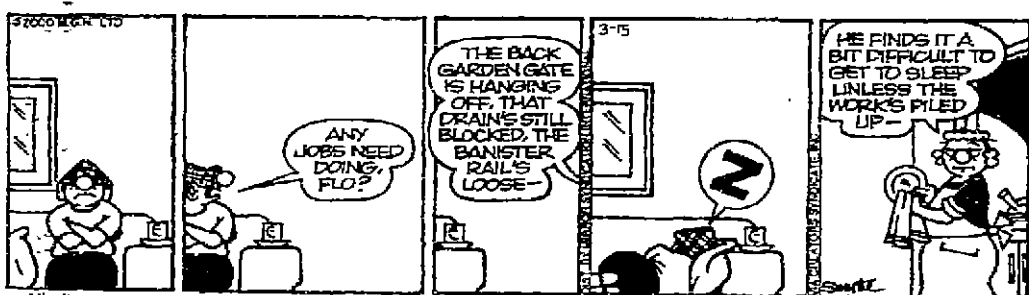
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



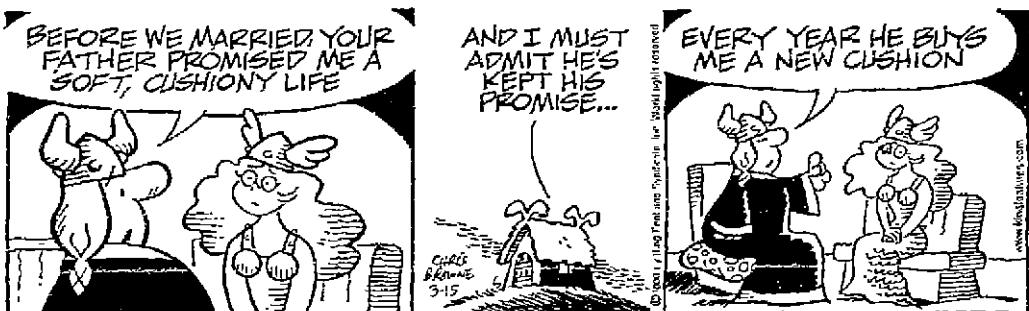
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



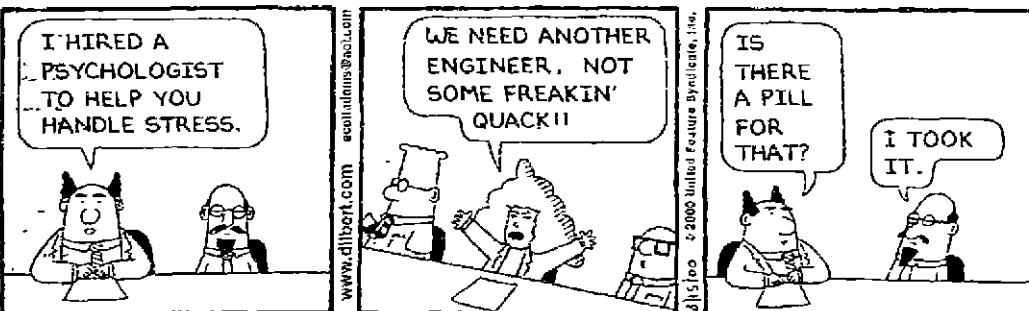
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



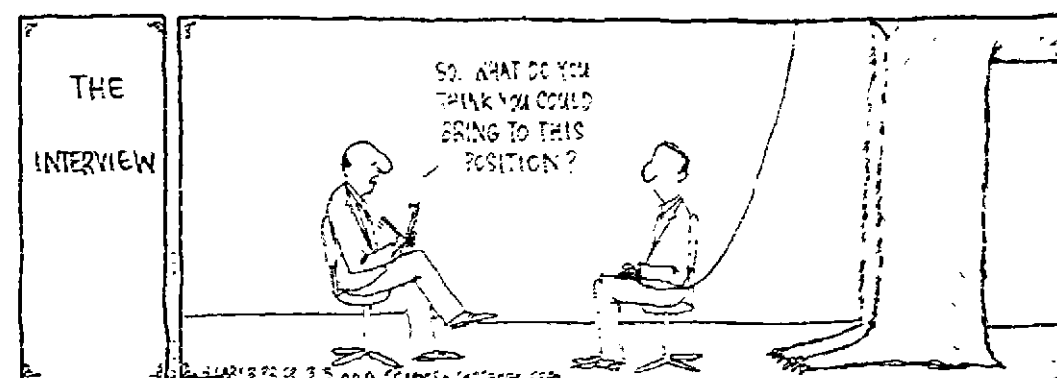
DENNIS THE MENACE



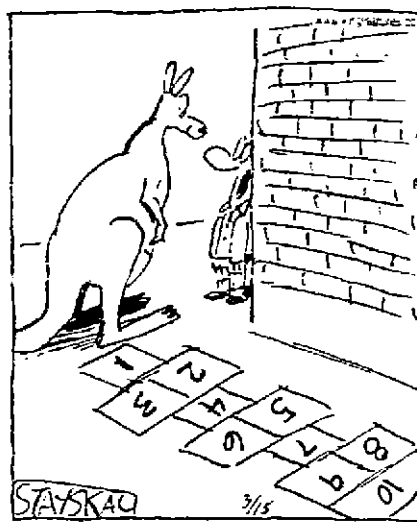
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Country singer Carl Smith is 73.
Former astronaut Alan L. Bean is 68.
Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 67.
Jazz musician Cecil Taylor is 67.
Actor Judd Hirsch is 65.
Rock musician Phil Lesh (The Other Ones) is 60.
Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 59.
Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 56.
Rock singer-musician Howard Scott (War) is 54.
Singer Ry Cooder is 53.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

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PAR SCORE 165-175
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Move a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring direction as at right. 7 letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. A Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble® Players Dictionary, Merriam-Webster's 11th and OED. Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 3/15/00

L	I	A	T	R	E	S
L	I	I	N	L	G	W
A	O	U	L	B	S	U
T	A	O	E	G	O	R

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HOROSCOPE

For Thursday, March 16

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Listen to your heart, and leave the rest up to fate.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Enjoy the feeling of contentment you have throughout the day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You will never get anywhere if you don't take the first step.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is the perfect time to start something new.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Listening to your intuition could lead you to new destinations that you've never even dreamed of.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Feeling like part of a group could help you feel grounded.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A desire to connect with someone on an intellectual level might backfire.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Use the positive energy of the day to build a foundation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are in control both of yourself and of the way you treat others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Try to focus on what's real vs. what's in your head.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Fix what you can and then move on.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Do your best not to get caught up in responsibilities or "have-tos".

WORD SLEUTH

—AMERICAN

V Q M I E A W T P L I E B X U
Q L N S J G D Z W T Q N K H D
A X L P U R A P M J G D A X V
S Q N A F F K I F H D A X V T
Q O M N R J H F C I T A Y W U
R P N I A T L J H T F U Y D B
Z X C S N C N V A N G L O T R
Q A I H C O I E O A R M R S K
N A I H O F R X C A D B P Z Y
N W V T R G Q T E O N L K I H
E V I T A N F D H M C A Z X W

Tuesday's unlisted clue: LADDER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: RELATING TO AFRICA

A great	Asian	Mexican	Pro
All	Central	Native	South
Anglo	Early	North	Spanish
Anti	Franco	Pan	

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3/15

For solution, see Classified.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

West led his club king and continued with his ace when East played the deuce. Desperately, West cashed his heart ace, bringing another deuce from East. There were no more tricks for the defense. But, as a consolation, West did save an overtrick by cashing his heart ace. West gets poor marks for stodgy defense. Had he paid more attention to the significance of East's club deuce, he would have found the defense to beat the game. Although a deuce is usually a discouraging signal, in today's setting it couldn't be. Had East held Q-10-2 (or even Q-8-2 if South falsified), he would have encouraged a continuation with his middle club. When East played the deuce, it could only be from Q-2 or a singleton deuce. Therefore, knowing East was bereft of high cards, West should have under-led his club ace at trick two. East would have won his queen, and the "automatic" heart shift would have netted one down. Might East have played his club queen at trick one to signal a possible doubleton? No. The queen should not be used to signal a doubleton. When a defender drops his queen under partner's king, he promises either the jack or a singleton, alerting partner that it is safe to underlead the ace.

NORTH
♠ J 10 5
♥ 7 4
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ J 6 4

WEST
♠ 8 3
♥ A Q 3
♦ J 2
♣ K 9 7 5 3

EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ 10 8 6 5 2
♦ A 6 4 2
♣ Q 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9 6 2
♥ K J 9
♦ 9 7
♣ 10 8

Vulnerable: Neither
Declarer: South

The bidding:
South: 1♣, 2♣, 3♣, 4♣
West: 1♦, 2♦, 3♦, 4♦
East: 1♥, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥
North: 1♠, 2♠, 3♠, 4♠

Opening lead: Club king

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0202

ACROSS

1 Medina resident
5 Rand McNally blowup
10 Flappers' hairdos
14 Newshawk's asset?
15 De ____ (actual)
16 He sang of Alice
17 Beginning of a quip
20 Right or fright precader
21 Backlayer's carrier
22 Gentle slopes
23 View from the Riviera
25 Depends (on)
27 Quip, part 2
31 Regis, to Kathie Lee

35 Dance setting, perhaps
36 Imposing entrance
38 Auditor, briefly
39 Outback runner
40 Fla. neighbor
41 Uneven?
42 Knock (over)
43 Jungle swinger
44 Mustang's home
46 Dry as dust
47 Sportscaster John
49 Quip, part 3
51 Emcee's task
53 Craving
54 Bit of broken pottery
57 1996 Olympic torch lighter
59 Adlai's 1956 running mate
63 End of the quip

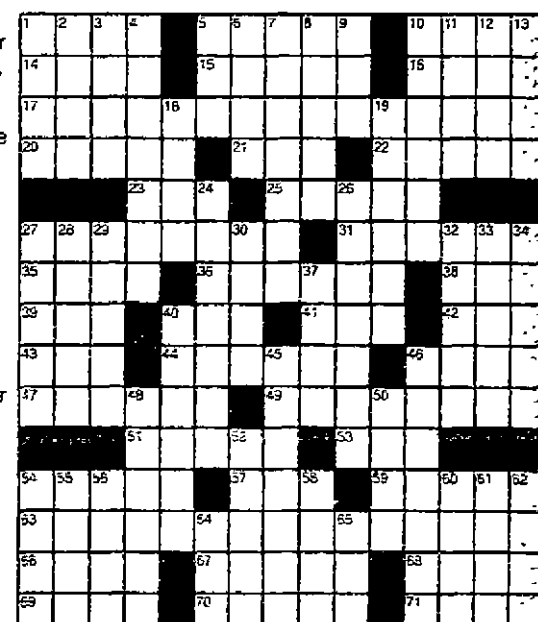
66 "I'll Be Around" composer Wilder
67 Didn't take part, with "out"
68 Flag
69 Undiluted, at the bar
70 Almost perpendicular
71 Precable problem

DOWN

1 Wee workers
2 Dig like a pig
3 Out of port
4 "Gaslight" Oscar winner, 1944
5 ____ were you
6 "Bronx" rhymor
7 Librarygoer
8 Exercise in musical dexterity
9 Tough turkey?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

APAR ENDUE BAT
DANE TOUTLE EVE
MRINBETWEEN FEN
AMOO MRPEEPERS
ADA WHEY ALSO
LITTLE SCULLER
IGOR REMAIN
MRANDMRSNORTH
SETTEE ARUB
INROADS MADAME
NOUN AMAN VIA
MRSOLEARY TIED
ART MRSROBINSON
TIL NOTONE OTRA
ESE SOWED NYSE



Puzzle by Richard Chappell

30 Take wing
32 Good-sized combo
33 Cathedral topper
34 Diminish gradually
37 Like some lunch orders
46 To-do list
45 Priest's assistant
48 Romantic sights
49 Nonstop
50 Source of pressure, maybe

52 Peace Nobelists
54 Kenton of jazz
55 Pocket problem
56 Neighborhood
58 Words of understanding

60 Castor, to Pollux
61 Mark replacer
62 Gush out
64 Alamos, N.M.
65 Naval off.

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.